Credits

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Upcoming Exhibitions

Pearl River Delta Project previously scheduled for January 27 - March 5, 1998 has been cancelled and been replaced with "Images of the Future and the Architecture of a New Geography."

Archigram 1961-71
March 14 - April 25, 1998

StoreFront is collaborating on a seminal exhibition titled Archigram, 1961-71 with New York non-profits and institutions including Thread Waxing Space, Pratt Institute, Columbia University, and Cornell University. StoreFront will present a collection of drawings, posters, ephemera, maquettes, and large scale installations by Archigram, one of the most important and influential British futurist architectural collaborations. This exhibitions was originally organized by the Kunsthorne, Vienna, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Annette Meyer
BIZARRARTS Inc.
May 6 - June 13, 1998

StoreFront will showcase the work of Danish Fashion designer Annette Meyer. Ms. Meyer emphasizes cultural and social relations by utilizing remnant paper packaging from various industries to construct a series of garments. The packaging originates from four chosen countries: Denmark, Japan, India, and the US. Highly visual and tactile, the clothes will be arranged by country while the number of garments in each represented geographical section expresses that country's attitude towards the consumption of disposable packaging.

StoreFront
FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE
97 Kenmare Street New York, NY 10012 U.S.A.

10 Feb - 7 Mar
opening reception 10 Feb, 6-8pm
Images of the Future
The Architecture of a New Geography

StoreFront Books

We are pleased to announce the second volume in the StoreFront Books series, **Suburban Discipline**, *edited by Peter Lang and Tam Miller and published by Princeton Architectural Press. (The city is no longer the undisputed arbiter for civilization, suburbia has infiltrated urban culture worldwide, shaping both its aspirations and fears.) Suburban Discipline explores the rituals, customs and changing nature of suburba this country and abroad in an attempt to define suburban culture without relying on typical urban comparison. Topics include roadside ads, Benton MacKaye and the Appalachian Trail, the hanging suburbs of Caracas, Euralille, and the explorations of Rome-based architectural group, Stalker.*

Suburban Discipline is available at StoreFront and other bookstores for $13.95.

We plan to continue the StoreFront Book series with **ECO-TEC: Architecture of the In-Between**, *edited by Amerigo Marras and Tam Miller scheduled for publication in Fall 1998. This volume, chronicling StoreFront's unique ECO-TEC project will include text and images by Neil Denari, Manuel de Landa, Mark Dery, Mel Chin, Felix Guattari, Andrew Ross, James Wines, Jean Gardner and Richard Kahan, among*

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Documentation of

IMAGES OF THE FUTURE: The Achitecture of a New Geography

from 97 Kwangju International Art Biennale
curated by Kyong Park

February 10 - March 7

GALLERY HOURS:
TUESDAY - SATURDAY 11-6PM

OPENING RECEPTION:
February 10, 6-8pm

Kyong Park, a commissioner of the 97 Kwangju International Art Biennale in Korea (September 1 to November 23, 1997), has conceived of and curated an exhibition called "Images of the Future: The Achitecture of a New Geography," one of his major exhibitions at the Biennale. The exhibition, which examined the reconfigurations of social boundaries within the globalization of labor, commerce and culture, presented 22 cities from around the world with their most critical and contemporary events. Through photographs, films, video, CD-ROMs, and architectural and urban projects, "Images of the Future" measured 18,000 square feet, and was seen by over 900,000 visitors. In a documentary form, this exhibition will be presented in 800 square feet exhibition space of StoreFront.

Although the exhibition is primarily comprised of images of buildings and spaces, it is not an inventory of current innovations in architecture and urban design. Rather, architecture and urbanism were utilized as instruments for cultural studies, especially in relation to political and economic forces. The goal is to illustrate the contentious cycles of destruction and development of urban landscapes, and how the contemporary city has become the tragic theater of social, political and cultural conflagrations. If the removal of the Berlin Wall signifies the beginning of a global re-assessment of personal, communal and national identities, then "Images of the Future" is a cinema verité of post-Cold War urbanism.

BERLIN
by Stefanie Burkle
and "Operation Berlin" 55min. 1997 (video/film)
by Rob Schroder, produced by George Brugmans

BOMBAY
by Claudia Diaz
[not presented at Kwangju Biennale]

BUCHAREST
by Kevin Deels
and "Architecture and Power" 52min. 1992 (video/film)
by Nicolae Margineanu/ Ager Films, [illegible]

DURBAN, EAST LONDON AND GREATER JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
by Housing Generator: Ronald Lee, Swan Hetten and Academy of Architecture and Urban Planning, Rotterdam

HAVANA
by Carlos Garaicoa

JERUSALEM
by Emmet Gowin
and "19 Bullets + Three" 55min. 1996 (video/film)
directed by Yoav Levanon, produced by Amit Goren and Yoav Levanon

KOBE
"Paper Log Houses"
by Shigeru Ban

KOWLOON/HONG KONG
"Walled City"
by Greg Girard and Aaron Tan
and "Book for Trun" 35min. 1997 (video/film)
by George Brugmans and Rob Schrader

KUALA LUMPAR
"Petronas Towers"
by Cesar Pelli

KWANGJU
by Ha Sung-hoop, Kim Hae-sun and Photo-Media Collective

MACAU
"Mirage City: Another Utopia"
by Arata Isozaki

MANILLA
"Bonifacio: Global City"
by HOK/Asia Ltd.

NEW YORK
"Fragile Dwelling"
by Margaret Morton

NEW YORK, CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES, NEWARK
"New American Ghetto"
by Camilo José Vergara

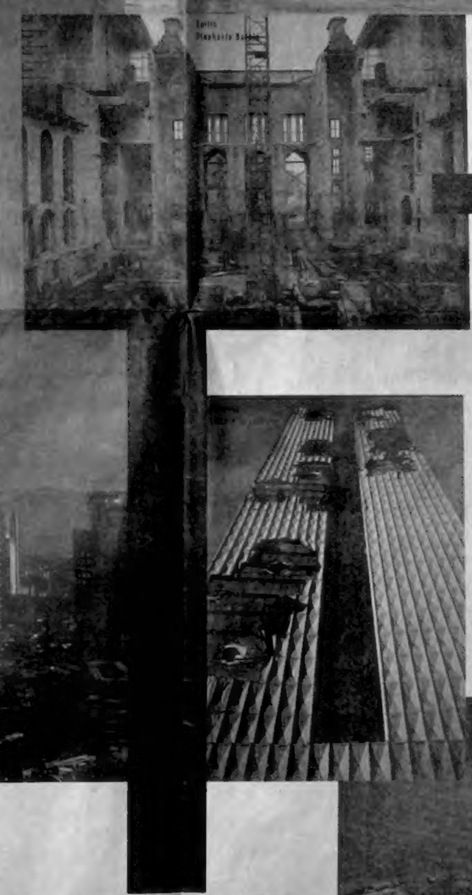
ROME
"One Life/One Kilometer"
by Hannes Brunner

SARAJEVO
"Wunderbaum"
by Mihaela Cavagnolo

SEOUL
"Dwelling Seoul Dreaming Seoul"
by Nhan Duke-Jun
and "Bed-Lodgings [plan]"
by Kim Ji-Sun
and "Past, Present, Future of Seoul [1934-1993]
by Ahn Seung-Gu

SHANGHAI
"Inflated Pleasure and Vroty Stalled Master Plan"
by Yuyu Hu
and "Changhai World Financial Center"
Kohn, Pedersen and Fox Associates

SHENZHEN, CHINA
"New City Center"
by John M. Y. Lee and Michael Timchula Associates



MARCH 3, 7PM

DISCUSSIONS IN RELATION TO THE EXHIBITION
MODERATOR: KYONG PARK
POSSIBLE GUESTS: EUNICE GOODIN, JOSH CHAIRAN, MICHAEL TIMCHUMLA, MARGARET MORTON, CAMILO JOSE VERGARA AND KENSH HEIT.

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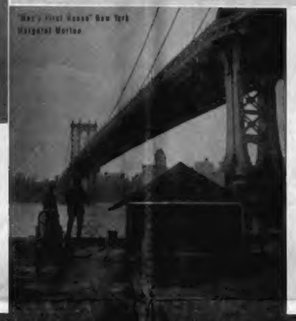

March 3, 7pm
Discussions in relation to the exhibition
Moderator: Kyong Park
Possible guests: Emmet Gowin, Josh Chaikan (Kobe Peterson Pos),
Michael Tinchomb, Margaret Morton, Camilo Jose Vergara and Xavier
Buel.

Possible subjects

- Depopulation and disinvestment of industrial cities
- Hyper-developments and the ensuing erasure and disappearance of historical cities
- Exhaustion of the natural environment and migration of labor resulting from the modernization of social structure
- Disappearance of traditional and physical boundaries and correlative emergence of invisible and economically determined geography of "gated" cultures
- Mutual ghettoizing of wealthy and poor, in the fragmentation and demilitarization of urban spaces
- Differences in the urban strategies of ethnic isolations within inner cities vs. satellite cities
- Reversing of urban and suburban paradigms, in population density and building typologies
- Co-existence of Third World urbanism within First World cities and vice versa
- Fragmentation and enclaving of urban fabrics through the re-emergence of historical, cultural and ethnic differences and conflicts, including civil and urban warfare
- Homogenization of urban culture and landscape through the development of generic cities
- Devaluation of the geographical relevancy of cities through the disappearance of physical uniqueness
- Globalization of industries and labor that unite previously independent cities into a globally functional, physically invisible and electronically determined city
- Separation of globally operational sector of a city from the internationally irrelevant and technologically less competitive rest of the same city
- Comparative studies on the utopia and dystopia of Ni-rizon—the ex-communist urban paradigm, the modernist worker's housing in Asia and disillusioned housing projects of the United States
- Comparative studies on Latin American housing, including monumental edifices and vernacular fabrics in the forms of "favellas" and "Las Ranchos"
- Environmental labels race in Asian mega-developments, and importation and re-interpretation of western influences
- Post-colonialism of developing cities involving self-colonization of indigenous culture through modern consumer commodities
- Cultural dichotomy within the drive for internationalization and, at the same time, the residual preservation of traditional urbanism in developing cultures
- Relationship between architecture and power, within political cities such as Bucharest, Berlin and Singapore
- Theatricalization of historical cities in the process of internationalization
- Questions on the neo-colonialism in the recent Asian economic crisis, through the intervention of the International Monetary Fund and accompanying Western interests.

IMAGES OF THE FUTURE
The Architecture of a New Geography

Cities used to have walls and gates, a sense of enclosure that outlined and structured the community. However, the urbanization of developing nations, along with the suburbanization of developed nations, have made such enclosures obsolete. Villages have grown into cities, cities have expanded to form megalopolises, and previously independent cities are merging to form even larger cities, which often cross national boundaries. This suggests that cities are becoming the next state structure, replacing what the nation used to represent. At the same time, some cities, abandoned by the nomadic behavior of advancing technologies, have lost significant portions of their populations and industries; first to the suburbs, later to rural areas and now to other countries. The depopulation and disinvestment of old industrial cities raise the possibility of a throw-away city, with our disposable culture acquiring an urban scale. Defenseless against the increasing quantity and mobility of population, the walls and gates of traditional cities have been removed.

These changes may help to explain why cities are so violent. We keep on building them and at the same time destroying them. These endless cycles of destruction and construction may be intrinsic to the progress of the urban environment, yet their excessive recurrence seems beyond the adaptive limit of inhabitants. And moderately, ruthless in the use of natural resources and human labor, in the end, may leave a trail of abandoned cities, exhausted along the route of advancing capitalism.

But in reality, cities are just moving, shifting their boundaries across the land. Enclosure no longer protects communities, it destroys them. At the same time, as the density of suburbs begins to exceed that of the inner cities—again in developed nations—the enclosure now protects the periphery rather than the center. The concept of enclosure, the very principle on which cities were founded, is in transformation.

Additionally, electronic communication and financing —the concretion of the Global Village—brings a new dimension to the change of our social structure. With virtual movements beginning to substitute for physical movements—wired and wireless vs. automobile and airplanes—we are beginning to alter a place rather than move between places. Home is changing into office, and vice versa, while cities are beginning to look more like each other. Consequently, the devaluation of geographical relevancy is not only based on the removal of physical distances, but also on the disappearance of urban uniqueness. The geography of "everywhere but nowhere " is under construction, where the centers, even edges, of any cities or cultures seem superfluous.

Thus, the standardization of culture and the development of physical similarities is in progress. With generic malls, hotels and offices now dominating skylines and public spaces, the homogenization of urban identity is integral to the internationalization of labor, commerce and information. The goal is the convenience of having cities that look and feel the same; that conform to the standards and comforts that are expected by increasingly globalized industries and their professionals. And in binding distinctive and distant landscapes, the architecture of globalization constructs an immaterial city, one that is absent of a particular location but is nevertheless quite real and functional.

In achieving the franchising of urban and cultural spaces, the history of any particular place must be modified, and in some cases, eradicated outright. Like processed food, complex and differentiated elements are replaced with simpler cultural icons that can be controlled and marketed for wider consumption. For example, many Asian cities, amid urban developments of monumental proportions, are erasing their traditional sectors and building standardized urban and cultural landscapes, all Western inspired. In turn, the remnants of indigenous architecture and spaces, now dysfunctional in both economic and cultural terms, could only survive through their thematifications, as restaurants, museums and amusement parks. At the same time, with the absence of "active" culture, selected memories are being reconstituted as "official" history, and returned to the urban fabric, stripped of their precision and idiosyncrasies and primarily attached to massive commercialized spaces. As much as the Asian officials claim that the Westernization of their cities is not literal but interpretive, the survival of traditional ways of life, without their icons and symbols, will be virtually impossible.

And with the Western colonization of Asia reaching its closing chapter, exemplified by the recent transfer of Hong Kong from British rule to Chinese control, the power of colonialism is shifting. Although the general transformation of urban landscape, from indigenous to western, was brought about in the interest of foreign investment and trade, it is the foreigners who now lament more on the loss of native cultures than the natives. Post-colonialism induces voluntary self exploitation of natural and human resources. In this condition of self-colonization, the eradication of native culture may be more ruthless under the natives than the foreigners, as the transformation of the built environment confronts less resistance.

In contrast, the dissolution the Cold War has invoked a resurgence of national, regional and local identities. Wars in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan are substituted by conflicts in Iraq, Somalia, Chechnya, Zaire, Rwanda and elsewhere, as the geo-political landscape is being reconstituted into regional, urban and even neighborhood scaled divisions. And although many neo-nationalist groups may have been provoked by self-serving political and financial ambitions, the new mapping, nevertheless, seems quintessential to the self-identity of indigenous masses. For them, revolution is spatial, and their battles are over spaces and buildings.

Thus, cities, no longer targeted by atomic weapons, now implode from their own disappointments and developments. Different sets of urban issues, of political dominance and social oppression, are being brought forth, accompanied by pictures of burning buildings and exploded public spaces—in the World Trade Center, Oklahoma City, Sarajevo, Beirut and more. The movements for independence are now emerging even within the First World, and not just in some "banana republics. " With the internalization of political debates and popular dissent, architecture becomes the new political effigy, and cities, the immersive theaters of economic, political and cultural conflagrations. If these are the images of our future, then they must be the architecture of a new social geography in the making.

However, the re-defining of social structure is not only based on religious, ethnic and cultural identities, as other kinds of enclosures are being built too. Cities and regions are beginning to erect a variety of enclaves and "gated communities" to protect the islands of wealth within the sea of poverty. The rich ghettoize themselves as well, within their financial headquarters and residential areas. Slumming is no longer exclusively for the poor, and in the separation of wealth and poverty, the demilitarization of urban spaces has begun. The new enclosures are the edges of the post-modern cities, marked with razor wires, surveillance cameras and private body guards. Thus, cities have begun to build their walls and gates again, and the old idea of fortification returns with new technologies and armaments.

The fragmentation of contemporary cities does not end with the building of enclaves. For an example, the process of rebuilding the inner cities of developed nations, with their new sports stadiums, restaurants and theaters, is effectively transforming them into entertainment and cultural hubs for the surrounding areas—the suburbanization of inner cities. And, the reconstruction of the central district in the war-torn city of Beirut, or the new urban developments in Asia, are a part of ambitious plans to develop international-class cities. Under the rhetoric of "quality of life," a desirable part of a city is extracted from its own city, and connected to a distant culture and economy.

In the end, we seem to be making many nations out of one city, and at the same time, making one city from many nations. The desire to be international at any cost, combined with the renewed emphasis on local identity, is producing a phenomena of "Glocalization," a diabolical mix of universalism and individualism. In the attempt to reconcile this contradiction, old boundaries are being broken and new maps are being drawn, radically mutating our social and individual spaces.

Thus, the city is both a document and progenitor of social structures, from cultural to political to economic. Its immateriality (space) and materiality (architecture) provide the framework and possibility for human thoughts to become activities. It is the most democratic manifestation of ourselves, regardless of whether it is autocratic or free. In bearing our triumphs and catastrophes to witness, it is the most important space that we have.

Kyong Park
July 1997